

New Hampshire Department of Education Bureau of Special Education Special Education Aid Procedures Manual "Applying for Special Education Aid"



December 2017

Any changes to the SPED AID Manual are in green.

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INTRODUCTION

The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is offering guidance to districts seeking Special Education Aid (SPED AID) reimbursement. The term "Special Education Aid" refers to the financial assistance for special education costs distributed under RSA 186-C: 18, III to a responsible school district. This manual offers assistance to school districts and business offices with the SPED AID process. This manual is intended to provide guidance and does not replace law nor does it replace the New Hampshire Department of Education's (NHDOE) fiscal review of districts' application for SPED AID. The NHDOE financial accountability review serves as the conduit to decisions relating to SPED AID reimbursement.

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education is pleased to distribute the Special Education Aid Manual. The Special Education Aid Manual was developed using NHDOE issued memorandum, presentations to the field, and input and comments from the LEAs.

The NHDOE would like to thank all the organizations, groups and individuals for providing input.

The NHDOE sought input from the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators (NHASEA), the New Hampshire Association of School Administrators (NHASA), the South Central Special Education Directors and the North Country Special Education Directors. In addition to these individuals, the NHDOE also sought input from individuals who attended the SPED AID trainings.

Eligibility for Reimbursement of SPED AID

School districts may be eligible for reimbursement of SPED AID based on the following:

- The cost to the district for implementing the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) during the preceding school year (July 1-June 30) must exceed 3-1/2 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil.
 - For students who have been placed in more than one (1) program during this period, costs are accumulative.

- For students who receive extended school year services during this period, the extended school year services must be entered into the IEP in the Extended School Year Services (ESY) section in NHSEIS in order to be considered for <u>SPED AID</u> reimbursement.
- The LEA shall provide extended school year services at times during the year when school is not in session, if determined by the IEP team to be necessary for the provision of FAPE. Extended school year services shall not be limited to the summer months or to predetermined program design. Please see Ed 1110.01 Extended School Year Services in the New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities (Effective march 24, 2017) for further information.

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- According to RSA 186-C:18, III, the Department of Education shall:
 - Be liable for 80 percent of the cost above the 3 ½ times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil
 for the school year preceding the year of distribution, <u>up to 10 times</u> the estimated state average
 expenditure per pupil for the school year proceeding the year of distribution.
 - The Department of Education shall be liable for all costs in excess of 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year proceeding the year of distribution.
 - o If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid exceeds the allocated amount, the district's reimbursement shall be prorated in accordance with RSA 186-C:18, III (a).

Only allowable costs paid from local funds will be considered for <u>SPED AID</u> reimbursement. If an allowable cost is paid with federal funds, the cost will be disallowed.

Consideration for Eligibility for Reimbursement of SPED AID

School districts must enter in the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS) student evaluation information, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and placement. The data must be in compliance with the requirements of the New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Students with Disabilities (effective March 24, 2017). Since NHSEIS is the official Special Education Information System (NHSEIS), the NHDOE will only use information entered in the appropriate sections of NHSEIS for consideration of SPED AID. The NHDOE will not review IEPs developed with other software systems, IEPs developed by private special education programs/schools or other state's IEPs. It is crucial that the data entered be accurate and up to date. The districts are advised to implement a system of "checks and reviews" to ensure accuracy of the invoices prior to entering the invoice information into NHSEIS.

• When a school district has placed a student in a special education program approved for his/her disability by the NHDOE or by the state in which the program operates, the placement **must be** entered into NHSEIS under program services. The NHDOE will **only** consider placements for <u>SPED AID</u> that are entered in the program services section of NHSEIS including placements for approved special education summer programs. If you are placing a student in an out of state special education program that is not in NHSEIS, has an expired date or will expire soon; it is the district's responsibility to seek special education approval documentation from the host state's DOE. The district must obtain the host state's special education approval prior to placing the student at the program. A list of all current approved special education programs are posted on the district's NHSEIS site. This list is updated monthly. Once any approved program in NHSEIS is modified, including out of state programs, the change occurs immediately.

For example, if an approval date is extended in NHSEIS, the change will take place immediately. With the change taking place immediately, this prevents each district having to call the NHDOE to make the change. The program approval changes are posted on the main menu page in NHSEIS or posting references an uploaded document also on the main menu page in NHSEIS. This information is also emailed to Special Education Directors. If you would like the NHDOE to enter a new out of state special education program or extend the end date, the forms for districts may be found on the NHDOE website under special education and then program approval.

- Exception to reimbursements for students in placements that are not approved for special education: Pursuant to Ed 1128.02, a responsible school district shall be reimbursed for Special Education Aid if a student is enrolled in a placement for which a hearing office, pursuant to Ed 1123, orders the responsible school district to reimburse parents in accordance with 34 CFR 300.148 (Placement of children by parents when FAPE is at issue). In the case where no placement exists in NHSEIS for this circumstance, the district must contact the NHDOE to have the placement entered into NHSEIS.
- Students who are placed using an Individual Program Approval (IPA) are eligible to seek SPED AID reimbursement if their special education costs meet the guidelines for SPED AID. For students who are placed using an IPA, the NHDOE will enter placement under approved programs. It is the districts responsibility to select that approved placement for their finalized IEP.

- Costs incurred during any period of time that student's records were out of compliance are not eligible for reimbursement i.e., not having an agreed upon IEP.
- Any changes to an IEP must occur prior to the submission of the IEP for consideration of Special Education Aid. Changes to the IEP must follow the Special Education process.

Careful attention must be paid to the following:

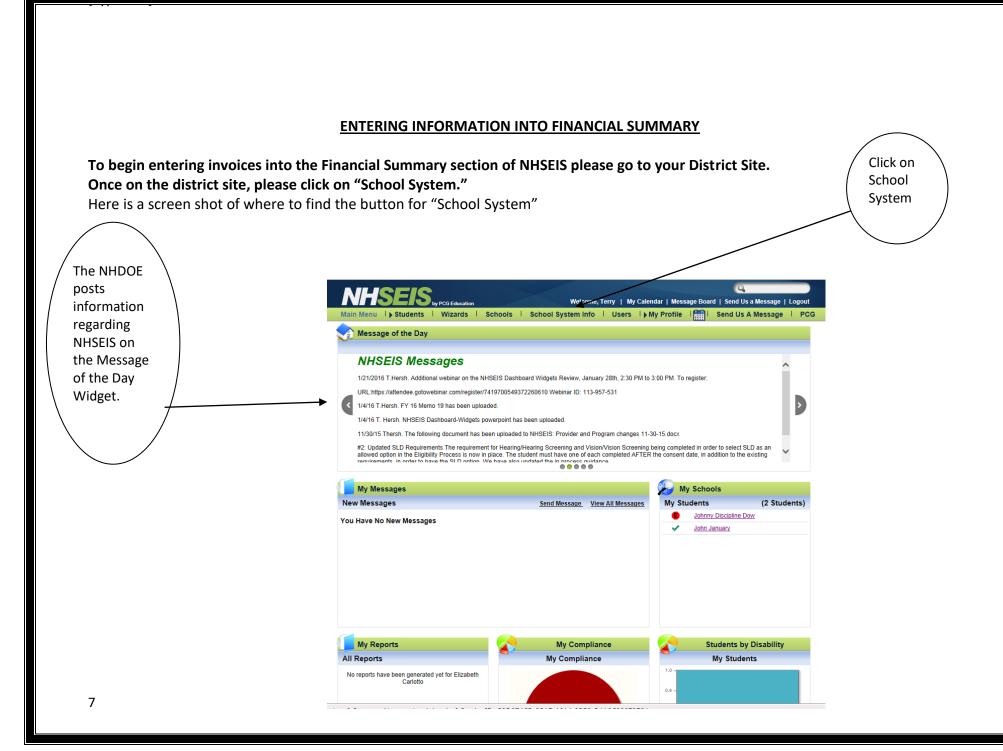
- ✓ Only IEPs that have been agreed upon by the parent/guardian as indicated by the parent/guardian's signature will be considered for SPED AID. The NHDOE will not consider draft or proposed IEP for SPED AID. IEP's created after the end date of an IEP will not be considered for SPED AID. The student history section in NHSEIS shows the documentation date created. The NHDOE encourages the district to review the students IEP after the draft IEP has been created to ensure that the correct time has been entered into NHSEIS.
- Amended IEP's LEAs should use the guidance provided by these three rules to document changes in special education and/or related services of IEPs in NHSEIS using the new amendment features. The amendment date entered should reflect when the proposed change(s) will begin and should ensure that parents are provided with14 days from the time they receive the Written Prior Notice documenting the change. Additionally, as with the IEP, informed, written consent from the parent must be obtained prior to initiating the changes. Parent signature date, then, if later than the date of the proposed amendment, is the date that should be used to initiate changes and is also the date that will be used to denote the beginning date of the changes for the purposes of Special Education Aid. For further information please refer to Bureau of Special Education FY '17 Memo #22
- ✓ Only invoices which have dates that coincide with the dates of the services identified in the IEP will be considered for SPED AID.
- ✓ The NHDOE may request a signed copy of the original IEP at any time during the review process. Failure to provide the IEP will result in all costs for this student being disallowed.
- ✓ Prior to submitting the Superintendent cost verification form for <u>SPED AID</u>; please review the students <u>SPED AID</u> for any errors. Example the IEP may state 3 minutes rather than 30 minutes. In the financial summary please make sure that all invoices are attached to a valid IEP. NHDOE understands there maybe extenuating circumstances regarding the students IEP. Please contact the NHDOE to discuss in detail.

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Responsibilities of the NHDOE

As of July 1, 2017 the Bureau of Special Education (Bureau) implemented a selection method to determine whether or not the Bureau will conduct a file review of paper invoices, please see FY 17 Memo # 42

- The NHDOE will review all applications for <u>SPED AID</u> to ensure that the processes outlined in this manual are followed.
- When a student transfers from one district to another district during a school year, all costs shall be added together to verify that the student's total cost meets the threshold for SPED AID. If found eligible, reimbursement will be computed according to the cost incurred within each district.
- If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special education aid exceeds the allocated amount, the district's reimbursement shall be prorated.
- The NHDOE shall distribute Special Education Aid reimbursement payments on or before January 1st of each year.
- As students are placed in programs, NHSEIS automatically adjusts for this change in capacity as students are being placed in the program.

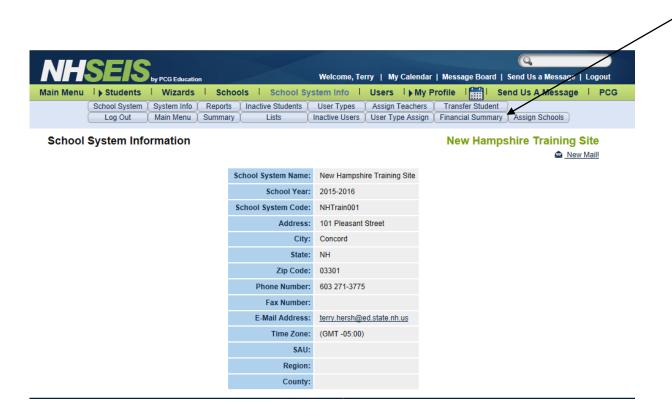


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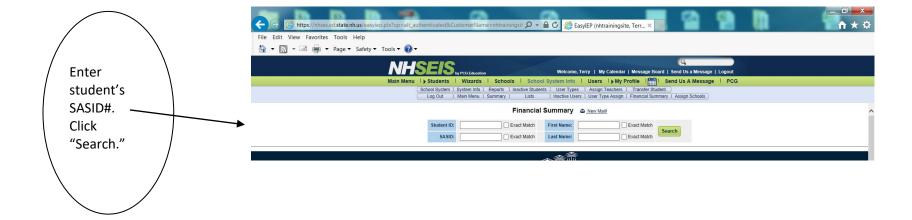
Once you have clicked on the "School System" button, please click on the "Financial Summary" button. The Financial Summary is used to determine Special Education Aid reimbursement for child- specific applications.

Once you are in the Financial Summary, please enter the student's SASID number. You could enter the student's last name rather than the SASID number. However, if you do enter the student's last name, more than one student may come up. Please ensure that you have selected the correct student.

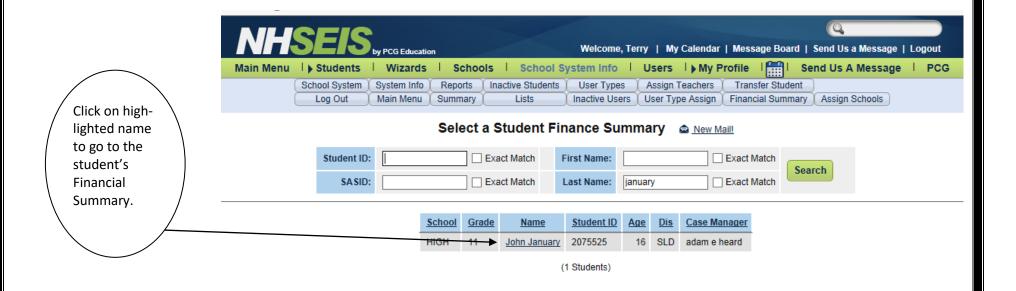
Click on Financial Summary



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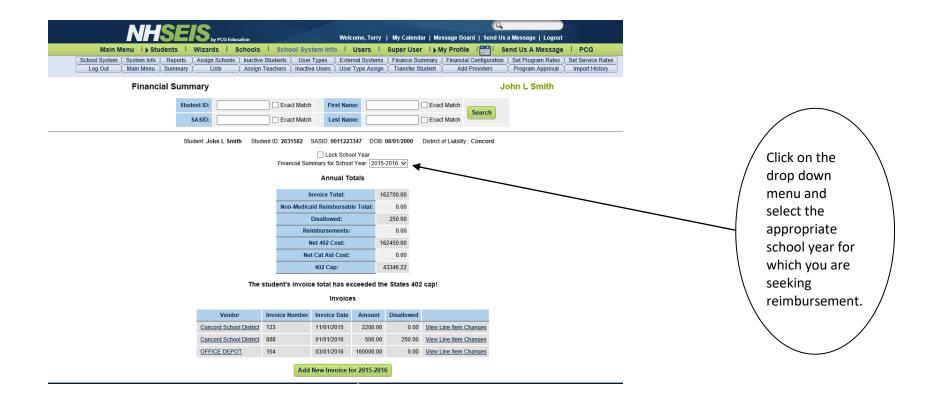


Please confirm that this is the student that you wish to enter invoices for. To continue, please click on the student's name. Please organize your invoices in chronological order. Putting the invoices in chronological order will assist you in entering invoices efficiently. The NHDOE calculates CAP and provides this information to the districts. CAP is 3 ½ times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Please select the year in which you will be submitting invoices. When entering invoices for Special Education Aid, please keep in mind it is for the previous year. NHSEIS calculates costs based on the number of units and unit price. It is essential that the LEA's review the invoices prior to entering the costs into NHSEIS to ensure accuracy of the invoices. Please review the invoices prior to entering into NHSEIS to ensure the invoice clearly identifies the student either by name or SASID #, that the services in the invoices are for services identified in the IEP, the date of the invoices are the dates identified in the services of the IEP. The invoices must have the dates of services rendered and those dates must coincide with the dates of services in the IEP. For students with multiple IEP's make sure the dates of the invoiced services are entered using the current IEP at the time of the services. If applicable, check to ensure that the rate you have entered is the NHDOE's or host state's established rate.



STUDENT'S FINANCIAL SUMMARY PAGE CONT...

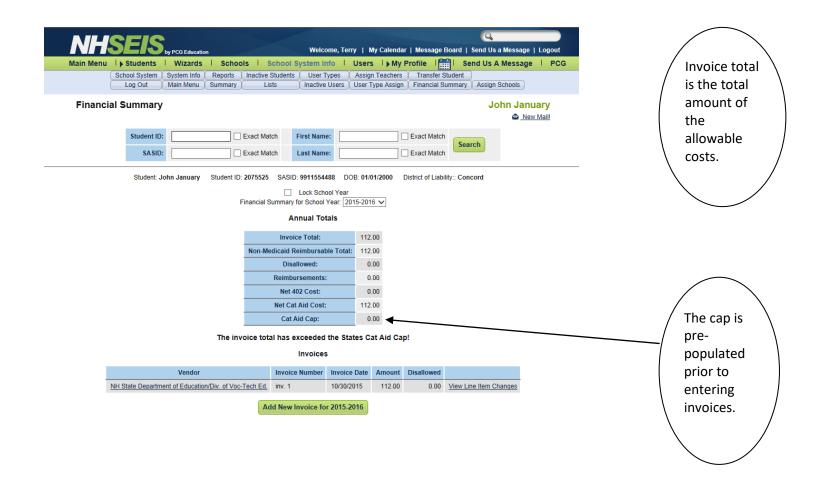
As Districts are entering invoices, NHSEIS is calculating CAP, invoice totals and disallowed costs. The NHDOE highly recommends that districts enter invoices into NHSEIS on a monthly basis. By entering invoices on a monthly basis, districts can audit whether or not they are being appropriately charged for the number of units as identified in the IEP and the cost of the services. When developing an IEP, please think of units as 30 minute increments. By using 30 minute units, this allows for consistency with your vendors. Districts will also be able to verify that they are being charged at the NHDOE's or host state's established rate. If there are errors on the invoice, this will give a District an opportunity to reconcile the invoice prior to the SPED AID submission on August 1st.

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The State establishes its rate based on 30 minute increments of service. In cases where the service is for 45 minutes, the district should select the service from the drop down. Enter one unit at 30 minutes and one unit at 15 minutes. The rate for the 15 minute unit will be entered using half the established rate. Both the IEP and invoices will need to reflect these entries.

For rates that are not established by the State, services can be entered for any increment providing the increment matches the units in the IEP.

The NHDOE in previous reviews of <u>SPED AID</u> have found several incidents of districts entering in more units of services than identified in the IEP. Although Districts may provide additional services to students, Districts cannot seek reimbursement for these additional units of services.



ENTERING INVOICES

When entering invoices into NHSEIS, you must enter the name of the vendor, the invoice number as well as the date of the invoice. The NHDOE encourages Districts to work with their vendors so that each invoice has an invoice number provided by the vendor. Invoices must clearly identify the student either by name or SASID # who received services. The NHDOE will not consider

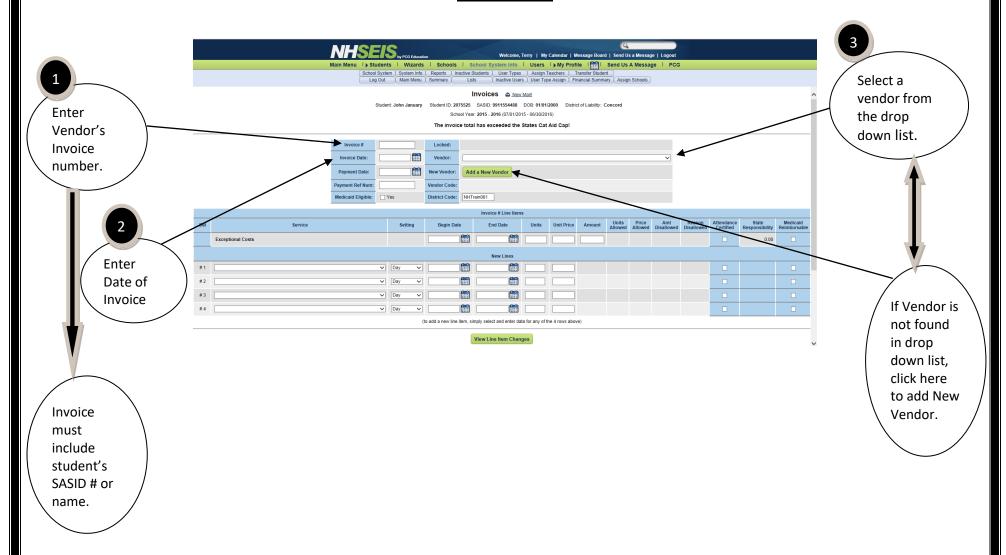
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the costs of an invoice if is not clearly identified what student received services. This may be done by either the student's SASID # or Name on the invoice. Please remember to enter the invoices in chronological order. NHSEIS calculates when CAP is met. NHSEIS is also designed to populate the dropdown in the service section with information from the IEP. NHSEIS is designed so that once a vendor has been entered, the District will not need to re-enter the vendor for each invoice.

For new vendors, there is an "Add a New Vendor" button. This allows Districts to enter new vendor information.

See the next page for a screen shot of entering invoices

INVOICE PAGE



ENTERING INVOICES CONT....

NHSEIS is designed to generate a drop down menu from specific sections of the IEP. The specific sections of the IEP that are generated into a drop down menu in the service section of the financial summary are Program Services, Special Education Services, Custom Special Education Services, related Services and Extended School Year Services. The NHDOE understands that there may be a situation that a district may need to write on an invoice. It will be the discretion of the NHDOE to decide whether or not the "write on" of an invoice still maintains the integrity of the invoice. Please remember to use the current IEP. The NHDOE will not consider an invoice for SPED AID reimbursement if the district has itemized the vendors invoice. Invoices must clearly state the type of service the student is receiving.

NHSEIS compares the number of units and sessions from these five areas to the data Districts enter from the invoices. When there is an overage of number of units and sessions, NHSEIS will disallow the costs. To assist in the review of your invoices, you may indicate when a session is a make-up session. The invoices should reflect the date of services rendered.

When districts enter the number of units and the cost per unit, you must enter the units in 30 minute increments. However, if this is not possible, Districts must enter the information using the number of units and sessions agreed upon in the IEP.

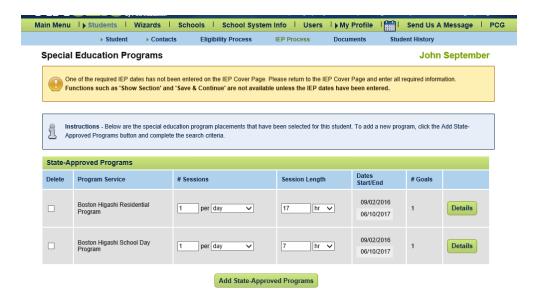
The NHDOE understands that there may be occasions when Districts may have invoices that reflect services that are less than the number of units identified within the IEP. If you encounter this situation, please enter in only the services that have been given.

The NHDOE reviews the invoices to ensure that the information stated on the invoice matches the information on the IEP. If there is a discrepancy that the District is able to correct, the District is given 5 days to make the correction. All e-mail correspondences pertaining to SPED AID will be sent to the district's special education director. The NHDOE has given a specific timeline in order to comply with the January 1st deadline for payment to LEAs. The information entered into NHSEIS must match the invoice in order for a district to receive reimbursement for that invoice.

If districts would like a preliminary report, they can review the annual totals for the student on the Financial Summary page. The annual totals show the total of all the invoices, as well as the disallowed costs. The annual totals also show when a student's cost meets the "cap" for SPED AID.

For invoices with residential costs, the tuition cost and the residential costs must each be clearly identified in the invoice including daily rate and the number of units. The units for residential and tuition costs must be entered in by the day.

Example of program placement entered in the student IEP Process.



Example of program placement appearance on IEP document.

Student Name: John September DOB:09/02/2000

New Hampshire Training Site IEP Meeting Date:09/01/2016

PARENT'S RESPONSE TO EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT PROPOSAL

This is a document for parents to indicate their formal response to a school district proposal related to educational placement for their child. Parents may take up to 14 calendar days from the date on which they receive the proposal to respond. This insures that the special education process can be conducted in a timely and appropriate manner. The 14-day time limit may be extended if both parent and School District agree to an extension.

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Provider: Boston Higashi School **Program:** Boston Higashi Residential Program

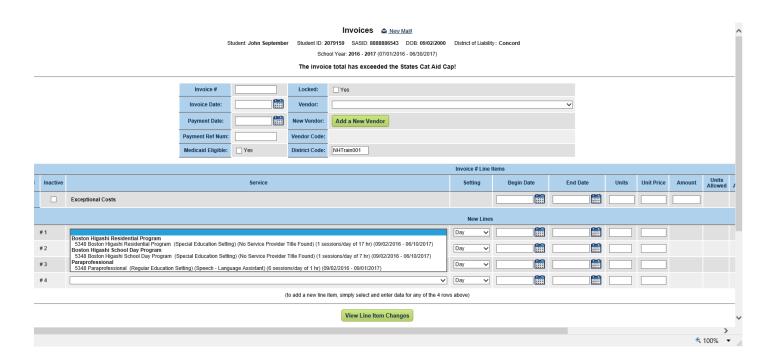
Provider: Boston Higashi School Program: Boston Higashi School Day Program **Time Spent:** 1 sessions/day of 17 hr

Begin: 09/02/2016 **End:** 06/10/2017

Time Spent: 1 sessions/day of 7 hr

Begin: 09/02/2016 **End:** 06/10/2017

Example of invoice entry for the program placement in the Financial Summary, Add Invoice section.



The NHDOE enters the established rates for the NHDOE's or host State's established rate in NHSEIS. If Districts enter an amount over the established rate, NHSEIS will disallow the overage. If this occurs, Districts must re-enter the information using the State established rate. Here is the link for New Hampshire's established rates:

http://education.nh.gov/instruction/special ed/documents/2015 2016 approved rated july 1 2015.pdf

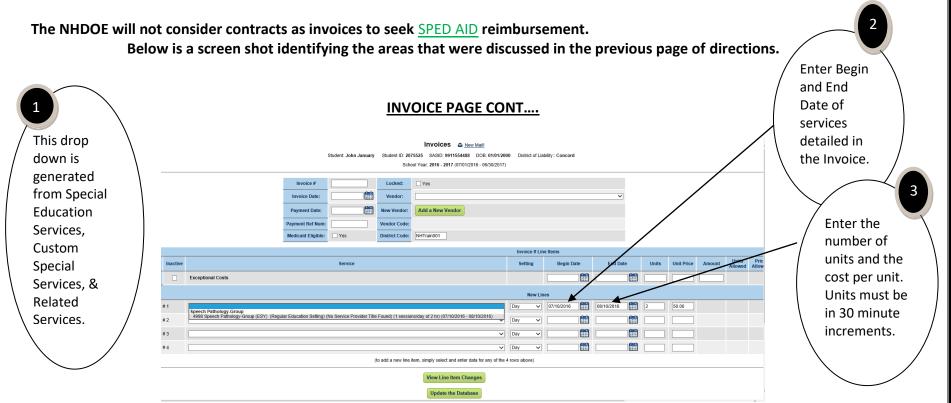
As the NHDOE receives the out of district rates, they are entered into NHSEIS at the time in which they are received. If the rates are not received until November, the rates will not be entered until November. Districts must go to each invoice and select "Update the Database" button only for invoices that are entered prior to the established rate being entered.

The NHDOE is aware that some agencies have more than one approved special education program. When an agency has more than one approved program, the name of the specific program must be clearly identified on the invoice. This will allow the NHDOE to verify the correct rate is being considered for SPED AID reimbursement.

Entering Transportation

Transportation must be identified in Related Services in order for Transportation to be considered for <u>SPED AID</u>. Transportation includes travel to and from school and between schools and other locations in which the IEP services are provided.

Transportation costs are considered only for the student's transportation. Transportation is part of the drop down menu under Related Services. By using transportation identified within Related Services, Districts will be able to enter units and unit costs for SPED AID reimbursement. Transportation costs of more than \$5,000 require invoices. Transportation costs of \$5,000 or less do not require invoices, although the NHDOE reserves the right to request both invoices and attendance logs. When entering services of a bus monitor please use "Custom Special Education Services," and type in bus monitor. If an individual other than a bus monitor provides the service of "monitoring" such as para-professional, one on one aide, rehabilitative aide, or one on one assistant, the invoice must match the service identified in the IEP. This will allow you to enter the units as well as the unit price. By entering bus monitor under "Custom Education Services" this will allow NHSEIS to populate bus monitor into the drop down menu under "Service" in the Financial Summary Section.







Happy Day Department 45000 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301

> Phone: 555-555-5555 Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail:

someone@example.com

Invoice

Bill To:

Desk and Chair School

District

12345 Pencil Way

Invoice #: 21000

Invoice Date: 12/31/2015

NAME: John Doe

SASID# 1234567899

Begin Service Date	End Service Date	Description	Quantity/ UNITS	Unit Price	Total
12/01/2015	12/22/2015	Tuition for John Doe	16 days	500.00	8,000.00
12/01/2015	12/01/2015	Speech Pathology-Ind.	1 hour	75.0	75.00
12/08/2015	12/08/2013	Speech Pathology-Ind.	1 hour	75.0	75.00
12/15/2015	12/15/2015	Speech Pathology-Ind.	1 hour	75.0	75.00
12/22/2015	12/22/2015	Speech Pathology-Ind.	1 hour	75.0	75.00

*If appropriate, please indicate 'Individual' or 'Group'.

SAMPLE

TOTAL 8,300.00
INVOICE AMOUNT

Payment/Credit Applied

TOTAL 8,300.00

IEP Rules and Guidelines

In order to be used in <u>SPED AID</u>, all IEPs and their amendments must follow the IEP process. Please be advised of the following laws from the NH Rules when writing IEPs and entering them into NHSEIS.

- Ed 1120.06 Parental Failure to Respond; Implementation of Changes by LEA. *** (a) If a parent fails to respond within 14 days after the sending of written prior notice pursuant to Ed 1120.04(b), the LEA shall implement its proposed changes if the LEA has taken reasonable measures to obtain informed written consent.
 - (b) Reasonable measures shall include:
 - Documentation of telephone calls to the parent made or attempted and the results of those calls; and Copies of correspondence sent to the parent and any responses received, which correspondence shall be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - (c) The processes provided for in Ed 1123 can be requested by either party at any time subject to the exceptions of Ed 1120.05(d) and (e).
 - *** Effective November 10, 2010
- Ed 1126.07 New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS). (c) For financial and monitoring purposes, the LEA shall be responsible for entering information into NHSEIS within 20 days of any action required to be entered into NHSEIS in order to comply with federal reporting requirements under 34 CFR 300.640–34 CFR 300.641.

When reviewing a student's IEPs for <u>SPED AID</u> purposes, the NHDOE abides by the following guidelines when determining date of IEP validity.

The NHDOE examines the following fields in an IEP: meeting date, start date, end date, meeting purpose, and signature date.

For new IEPs (those which are annual reviews and/or have a new meeting and begin dates), the NHDOE considers the IEP valid from the begin date and the parent must have signed before the proposed begin date. These IEPs should be signed within 14 days of being proposed and need to be signed before the begin date. If an IEP was not signed within 14 days, see Ed 1120.06 above. The NHDOE reserves the right to request any back-up documentation necessary to verify the parent signature date if it occurred beyond the 14-day period.

Amended IEPs are those that have the same meeting, begin, and end date as a previous IEP. They must, however, have a new parent/guardian signature date. The NHDOE considers the IEP valid from this signature date forward.

Please note that only one IEP may be valid at a time. Therefore, once a new IEP has been signed on or before the begin date, the old IEP is no longer valid and may no longer be used for SPED AID purposes.

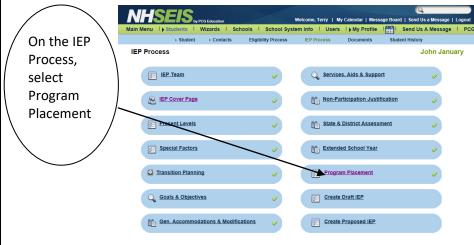
EXAMPLE:

IEP#	IEP Type	Begin Date	End Date	Signature Date	Valid from:
5000	New	3/31/15	3/30/16	3/17/15	3/31/15-3/30/16
5013	New	3/31/16	3/30/17	3/17/16	3/31/16-5/3/16
5034	Amendment	3/31/16	3/30/17	5/4/16	5/4/16-3/30/17

For further information please refer to Bureau of Special Education FY '17 Memo #22

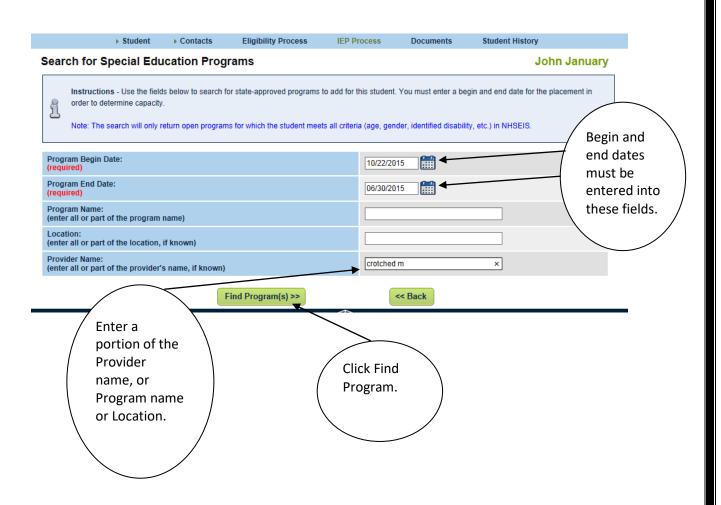
PROGRAM PLACEMENT

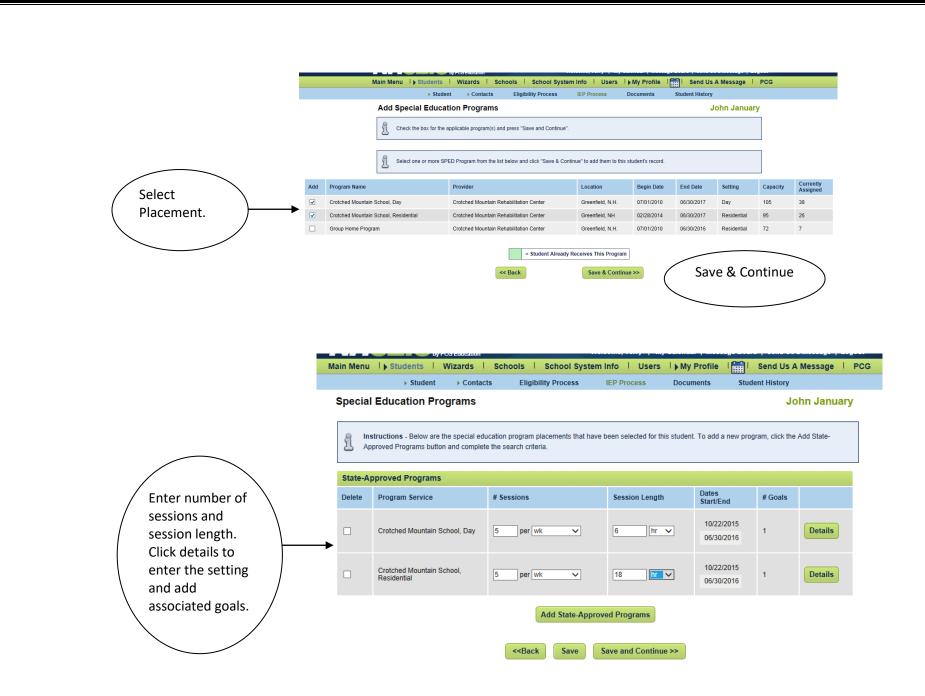
When entering program placement including placements for approved special education summer programs into the IEP use "Select Program Placement." By using "Select Program Placement" this ensures that either the NHDOE or the Host State has approved the special education program. By using "Select Program Placement" this also ensures that the student meets the special education approval for the student's age, gender and primary disability in addition that the number of students within the program has not exceeded capacity. Invoices should not be entered for placement including tuition and room and board if the name of the program does not appear in the drop down menu under "Program Services" in the Service section of the Financial Summary. Students that are residentially placed in New Hampshire need to have two placements entered into NHSEIS; the day educational program and the residential program. This is to account for the specific day program costs as well as residential costs. Quite often there is a difference between the number of school days compared to residential days. The NHDOE WILL NOT consider cost for program placement either tuition and/or room and board if the program is entered into Custom Special Education Services. The NHDOE will not consider placement costs if the placement is identified in other software systems, IEPs developed by private special education programs/schools or other state's IEPs. The NHDOE will not consider cost for program placements entered into Custom Special Education Services since this bypasses the business rules associated with program placement.





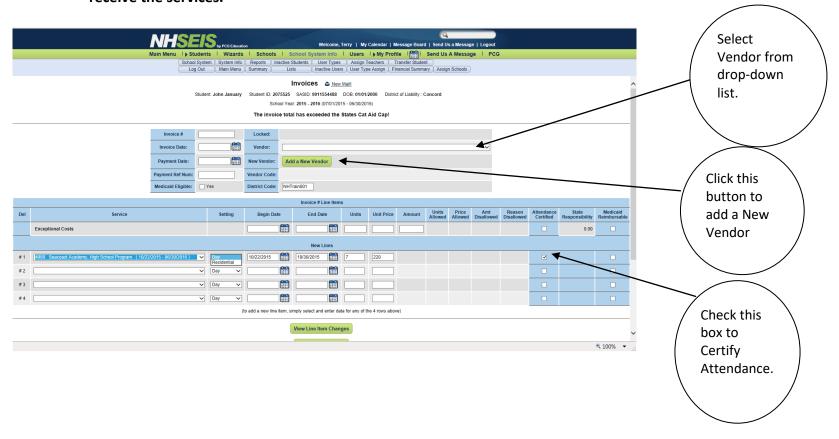
Charter schools are public regular education placements, therefore are not included in the approved special education programs in NHSEIS. Charter schools cannot be entered under program placement in the IEP Process and cost cannot be used for SPED AID. However special education and related services are allowable.





ATTENDANCE

Students must be in attendance in order for the services in an invoice to be considered for SPED AID. Place a check in the "Attendance Certified" box to verify the student's attendance. By checking this box, the District is verifying that the student was present for the services found in the invoice. Districts are responsible to keep student attendance records. Districts do not need to submit attendance records to the NHDOE, however; the District must be able to produce the attendance records if requested by the NHDOE. The NHDOE is not able to consider costs when students are not present to receive the services.



EXCEPTIONAL COSTS

Reevaluations Allowed

Costs for Reevaluations (3 year evaluations) may be entered in the financial summary under "Exceptional Costs." In order for reevaluation costs to be considered, the evaluation must be a required assessment found under Ed 1107.04 in Table 1100.01. The required assessment must be given by a qualified examiner as identified in Table 1100.01. The state timelines must be met including the time extension timeline. Evaluations that are not required under ED 1107.04 will not be considered for SPED AID.

The district is able to submit costs for reevaluations pursuit to Ed 1107.05(a) (b). The NHDOE will only consider costs for a reevaluation that has not occurred more than once a year unless there is documentation that the parent and LEA agree. The district will need to submit to the NHDOE evidence of the parent consent to reevaluate. The invoice must state that the costs are for a reevaluation. To enter the costs into NHSEIS please enter the invoice under "Exceptional Cost" in the financial summary.

Independent Educational Evaluation

The NHDOE will consider the costs for an independent education evaluation. The district will need to submit to the NHDOE an invoice stating the costs are for an evaluation. To enter the costs into NHSEIS please enter the invoice under "Exceptional Cost" in the financial summary.

Other Assessments

The district is able to submit costs for assessments. The invoice must state that the costs are for assessments. To enter the costs into NHSEIS please enter the invoice under "Exceptional Cost" in the financial summary. Below are some examples of other assessments that will be considered:

- Assistive technology
- Vocational assessment
- Orientation and mobility assessment
- Functional behavioral assessment

EXCEPTIONAL COSTS (cont.)

In the case of a child who is blind or visually impaired, the purchasing of braille books, large print and specialized material can be considered under exceptional costs.

Evaluations Disallowed

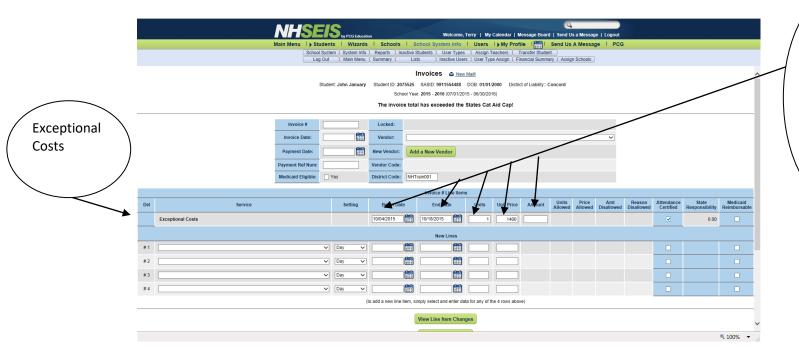
Initial evaluation for the determination of initial eligibility.

The NHDOE will only consider the assessment costs for a student whose eligibility is in compliance. If the student's eligibility is out of compliance then the subsequent evaluation to correct the eligibility is disallowed.

Other Exceptional Costs

Interest for emergency assistance loans and other costs associated with the emergency assistance loans may be entered in the financial summary under "Exceptional Costs."

The NHDOE will consider on a case by case basis other exceptional costs. Please contact the NHDOE to discuss these costs.



Enter Begin Date, End Date, number of Units of Service and the Cost per Unit

DISALLOWED COSTS

It is the responsibility of the NHDOE to verify that the invoices entered into NHSEIS are for allowable costs. Here are several examples taken from actual District's invoices in which the NHDOE disallowed. It is the hope of the NHDOE by providing these examples of disallowed costs, it will assist the Districts. Each time a District enters disallowable costs into NHSEIS, the NHDOE must then work with the Districts to remove the costs. Since the review process of SPED AID is time specific, a smooth process will assist the NHDOE in meeting the legislative time line of January 1st for payment.

Please do not enter placement under "Custom Special Education Services." The NHDOE will not consider the cost of placement including placements for approved special education summer programs for tuition and/or room/board that are entered into "Custom Special Education Services." If placement including placements for approved special education summer programs is in any other section of the IEP other than "Program Services", the cost will be disallowed. If a District enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

If the dates of the program identified in the IEP, do not coincide with the invoice dates, the placement will be disallowed. Example:
 Invoice dates: July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 Placement dates: September 1, 2009-June 30, 2010.
 For this example, you can see that an invoice was submitted for the months of July and August however, there

For this example, you can see that an invoice was submitted for the months of July and August however, there was no placement identified in the program service section of the IEP for this time period. These are costs which will be disallowed. If a District enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

The NHDOE will not consider costs for administrative function of personnel. Administrative functions can include but not limited to: cost to attend meeting, writing of reports including IEPs, development of IEPs and analysis of data.

Please do not enter services as one total amount. When you enter services at one total amount NHSEIS will disallow the cost. NHSEIS is constructed so that invoices are entered based on the number of units identified within the IEP. Below is an example of how to properly enter units into NHSEIS.

- Please enter as 180 units @\$50.00 = \$9,000
- O Please do not enter as 1 @ a set price Example: Transportation= 1@ \$9,000.00

The allowable services on the invoice must match the service identified in the IEP. For example the IEP under custom special education services identifies a rehabilitative aide and district enters the cost from an invoice that states a one on one paraprofessional. The NHDOE will deny the invoice, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

Please do not enter invoices for service provider's mileage, travel or hotel stays. These are costs which will be disallowed. If a District enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

Please do not enter invoices for supplies such as paper, pencils, art supplies, movie rentals and aids to daily living (ADL). These are costs which will be disallowed. If a District enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

Please do not submit invoices for the regular class. These are costs which will be disallowed. If a district enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

The NHDOE cannot consider "camps" as reimbursable under <u>SPED AID</u> since the Bureau of Special Education does not have the authority to approve camps for special education programs.

Services which are usually included in tuition costs may not be charged for in addition to the tuition rate approved by the NHDOE or program's state of origin.

If Districts submit invoices that were for services in the previous fiscal year, the NHDOE will disallow the costs identified in the invoices. The NHDOE can only consider invoices for services that have been rendered in the year in which the District is seeking Special Education Aid.

When Districts submit invoices for items that are used for the general student population or a general special education population these costs will be denied. Examples of such costs may include but are not limited to: purchasing items for common areas such as hallways, items for the overall special education department such as consumables including diapers, wet wipes and latex gloves cannot be considered a special education cost. These are costs which will be disallowed and Districts will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

The NHDOE will only consider costs at the NHDOE's or host state's established rate. If the District pays over the established rate and enters this into NHSEIS, NHSEIS will disallow the difference between the established rate and the rate for which the District has been charged. Please contact Tamela Dalrymple at (603) 271-6056 to find out the host State's established rate.

Example:

Harry F. Benjamin Special Education Program State Established Rate: \$199.99 per day Harry F. Benjamin Special Education Program Rate Charged to District: \$299.99 per day

If the District enters the rate of \$299.99 per day, NHSEIS will disallow \$100. Districts will be asked to remove the excess costs from NHSEIS.

The NHDOE will only consider costs that coincide with the information in the services of the IEP. If the District pays for services that have one time period on the invoice and the IEP have another time period. The NHDOE will disallow the costs.

Example:

Invoice states individual OT services for 10/1/09 to 5/13/10 IEP identified individual OT services from 9/1/09 to 3/31/10

The NHDOE will consider the costs for 10/1/09 to 3/31/10. This is the time period that both the invoice and the IEP coincide.

In reviewing previous applications for <u>SPED AID</u>, the NHDOE has found that some districts are considering group when there is only one student receiving services. The NHDOE cannot consider this cost for <u>SPED AID</u> since having one student is not considered a "group." If there are no other students to participate in a "group" service, the IEP should be convened in order to discuss amending the group service in the IEP to an individual service.

The NHDOE cannot consider the cost of a field trip for consideration for <u>SPED AID</u>.

Invoices must clearly identify the student who received services. Please do not use nicknames on the invoices. The NHDOE will not consider the costs of an invoice if it is not clearly identified what student received services. These are costs which will be disallowed and Districts will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS.

Service logs should not be used in place of invoices. Invoices being submitted for <u>SPED AID</u> should have an invoice number, invoice date, provider information, service being provided, number of units provided, and a unit rate.

The NHDOE will not consider costs that are associated with an IEP that has been inactive. You can find inactive events in the Student History page in NHSEIS.

Invoices will not be considered for <u>SPED AID</u> from items identified under Support for Personnel, Goals and Objectives or Supplemental Aids and Services section of the IEP. If a District enters this information, you will be asked to remove these invoices from NHSEIS. The NHDOE will only consider costs found in Special Education Services, Custom Special Education Services, Program Services, related Services or Extended School Year Services section of the IEP.

There may be incidents that a district might have to figure a cost. If you are figuring a cost of service please always round down. If a District rounds up, the (units) x (rate) will calculate at an amount over the invoice and it will be disallowed.

Example: Individual Speech rate= \$52.23 Group Speech Rate=\$26.115

→ Correct rate is \$26.11 not \$26.12 Do not round UP

The NHDOE will not endorse an IEP being modified after the expiration of the IEP in order for costs to be eligible for <u>SPED AID</u>. If there is a question regarding timelines, the NHDOE will verify in the date created section under Student History page.

Districts may not submit <u>SPED AID</u> costs for students who received Court-Ordered Placement Aid for the same placement(s) during the school year.

It is not the responsibility of the NHDOE to interpret the services identified on an invoice.

- Example: Sally Smith is a social worker who works with the family.
 - o The IEP under custom special education services states <u>home school consulting</u>.
 - The invoices state <u>in-home family counseling</u>.

The NHDOE will not interpret the <u>home school consulting</u> as the same service identified in the invoice of <u>in-home family counseling</u>. The NHDOE will disallow these invoices since the services in the invoice do not match the services in the IEP.

Direct instruction is not placement. If a district is attempting to use direct instruction for tuition costs, the NHDOE will disallow this cost.

Curriculum purchased for the regular classroom cannot be considered for **SPED AID** reimbursement.

Invoices which contain handwritten notes changing the description of the services will not be considered for SPED AID reimbursement.

Tuition for two full placements will not be considered for SPED AID reimbursement.

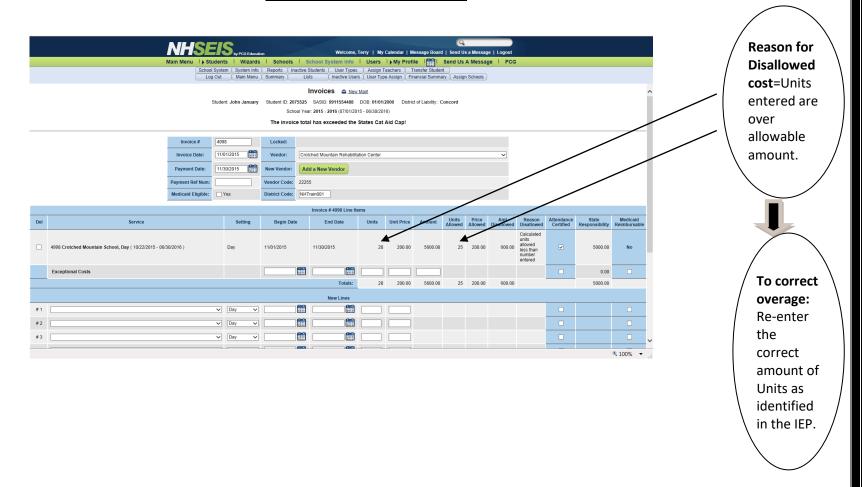
Services entered under Special Ed Services on the IEP should not simply be the vendor's or provider's name or title. The IEP entry must actually describe the service being provided or the costs will be disallowed.

The NHDOE 25 includes administrative costs and cannot be used to determine for tuition for <u>SPED AID</u> reimbursement. Special education tuition should be calculated using the teacher's salary divided by the number of students in the class. Calculating cost for a teacher who teaches 7 students in a self-contained program should be the teacher's salary and benefits divided by 7.



<u>INACTIVATING COSTS</u> - WHEN THE NHDOE IS AT THE POINT OF FINAL ANALYSIS, FOR DISTRICTS WHO HAVE NOT MADE THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS, THE NHDOE MAY INACTIVATE COSTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DISALLOWED IN ORDER TO PROCESS THE REMAINING INVOICES FOR SPED AID.

DISALLOWED COSTS EXAMPLE



ALLOWABLE COSTS

For district-operated programs, only direct costs attribute to each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) under **Special Education Services, Custom Special Services, Program Services & Related Services** may be considered for reimbursement. No indirect costs such as pro-ration of regular staff salaries, building maintenance and operations, regular transportation, standard textbooks and school supplies will be allowed. If the program serves students from other districts on a tuition basis, the funds received must be subtracted from the operational costs of the program to accurately calculate the host district's real or net cost.

**Please subtract the cost charged for tuition for out of district students from the operational costs prior to establishing district tuition. Example: If the program has an operational cost of \$220,000 and the tuition for out of district students is \$20,000...subtract \$20,000 prior to calculating in-district costs. To further clarify, the \$200,000 should then be divided by 8 in district students to calculate an in-district student cost of \$25,000.

For Extended School Year Services that occur in the summer months, these ESY services may be considered for <u>SPED AID</u> reimbursement providing that they meet the requirements as outlined in this manual. For a list of approved special education programs that occur in the summer months, please check the NHSEIS list of approved programs that is posted on the front page of your NHSEIS site.

Districts may submit costs for home instruction under Ed 1111.05 Home Instruction for School Aged Children. Districts may submit costs for temporary home-based programs not exceeding 45 days in a school year. For home instruction programs greater than 45 days, the district must submit 10 days prior an application for home instruction to the State Director of Special Education. In addition, Home Instruction must be selected under program placement.

The NHDOE considers "direct instruction" as the specially designed instruction outlined in IDEA. Specially designed instruction may be provided by a certified educator, specialist or related service provider. The special education service name needs to outline the content, methodology or delivery of instruction.

Specially designed Instruction is an allowable cost under <u>SPED AID</u>. However, the student's IEP and the appropriate invoices must specify the subject area in which the student is receiving <u>Specially Designed Instruction</u> (i.e. reading, math).

• **Example:** Specially designed instruction for math could read as a service name "Specially designed instruction in math for 1 hour a day/ five days a week."

Districts may enter program placement as time of the school day x 5 sessions per week.

• **Example:** Sally attends the Excel Special Education Program. This is a day program. The information is entered as: 6.5 hours per day x 5 days/week.

Equipment Allowed

Special education equipment costs will be considered provided such equipment is included in the child's IEP. Anything over \$250.00 and a life of more than one year is considered equipment. In order to seek reimbursement this equipment cannot be purchased using IDEA funds.

Software and license for software is an allowable expense. Software and license for software needs to be child specific purchased for a student with a disability. The district will need to submit an invoice to the NHDOE with back up. The backup would need to have the list of student's using the software. Software and license for the software must be considered specially-designed instruction.

CONSULTATION

After due consideration based on input from the field, the NHDOE will consider consultation services as direct cost.

The Department of Education provides the following for consideration of Special Education Aid if the consultations to staff and/or consultative services meet the following guidelines:

- Consultations to staff and/or consultative services are identified in the IEP under custom special education services.
- Invoices must clearly state consultation to staff and/or consultative services in the specific area that consult is occurring. The provider's qualifications are noted on the invoice.

It is not the responsibility of the NHDOE to interpret the "consultant costs" identified on an invoice.

- Example: Sally Smith is a social worker who works with the family.
 - o The IEP under custom special education services states home school consulting.
 - o The invoices state in-home family counseling.

The NHDOE will not interpret the <u>home school consulting</u> as the same service identified in the invoice of <u>in-home family counseling</u>. The NHDOE will not allow "consultant costs" on the invoices since the services in the invoice do not match the services in the IEP.

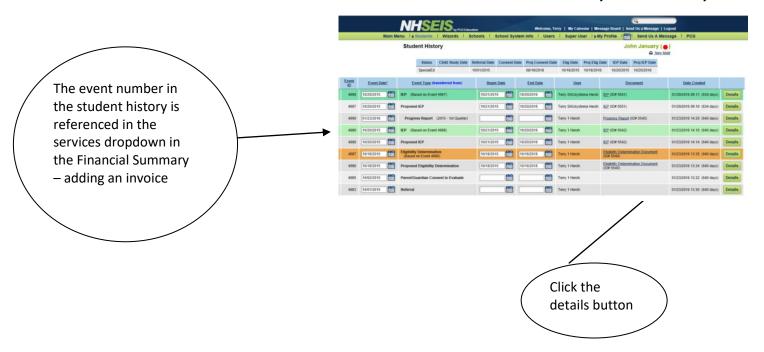
The NHDOE will not consider costs for <u>SPED AID</u> reimbursement for e-mail consults.

The following will not be considered consultant costs as they are an administrative function:

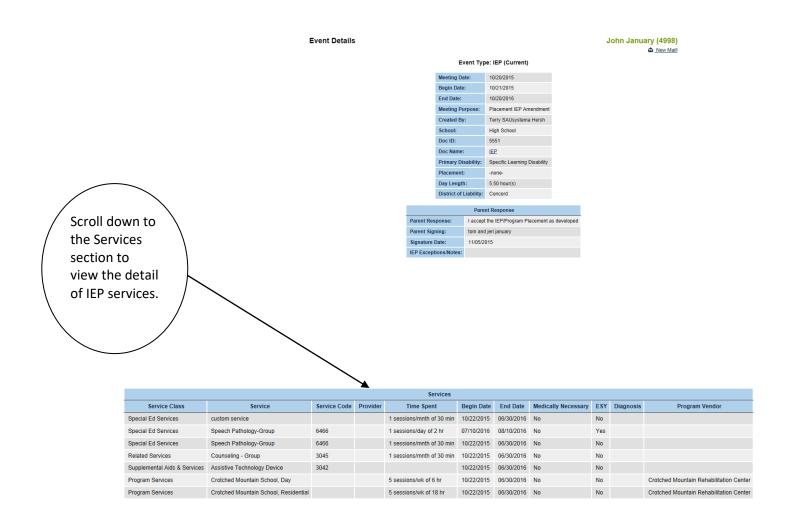
Planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting developing, reviewing and budgeting

IN DISTRICT COSTS – IEP

Student History for John January

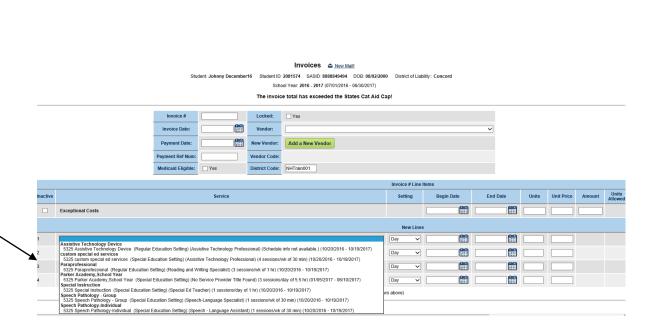


IN DISTRICT COSTS - IEP DETAILS



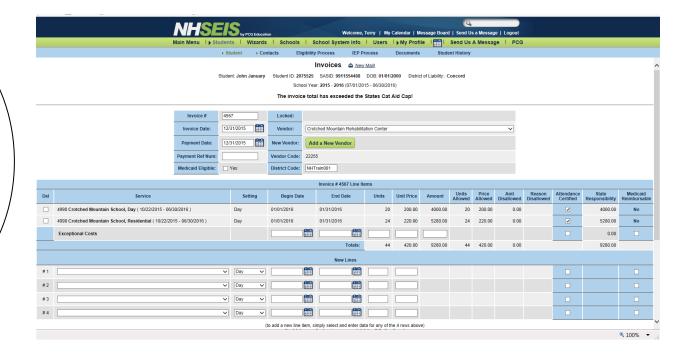
IN DISTRICT COSTS – ENTERING INVOICE

In the services dropdown list the number refers to the event number in the student history. The invoice service line includes the setting, provider, number of units and the length of unit for each service or program placement. The program placement does not have a service provider, it has a provider. This newly added NHSEIS feature will make adding invoices easier.



IN DISTRICT COSTS – ENTERING INVOICE

Enter the invoice, selecting the IEP service from the dropdown list. Enter the begin date and end date of the service. Enter the number of units and unit price. The district must certify student attendance or the invoice will be disallowed.



IN-DISTRICT COSTS - BACKUP DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

For district operated programs, only direct costs attributable to each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) may be claimed. No indirect cost such as pro-ration of regular education staff salaries, building maintenance and operations, regular transportation, standard textbooks and school supplies but not limited to will be allowed. If the program serves students from other district on a tuition basis, the funds received must be subtracted from the operational costs of the program to accurately calculate the host district's real or net costs.

Service logs are required for the following services:

- Therapies (i.e. occupational, physical, speech)
- Bus monitors

Service logs are required to include the following aspects:

- Provider name
- Provider signature
- Service provided
- Student identification (name or SASID)
- Dates of service
- Units provided
- Code, if applicable (for example, individual, group, or consult)

Student attendance logs are required for the following services:

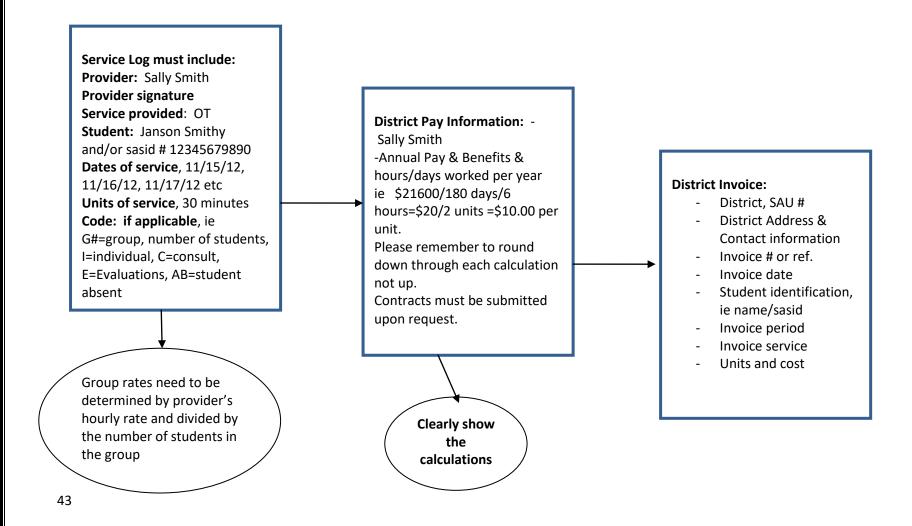
- Direct instruction
- Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Transportation

Salary and benefit breakdowns are required for all in-district providers, including teachers and paraprofessionals. These breakdowns should divide the provider's total salary and benefits by the number of days/hours worked in order to get a unit rate. Remember to round down.

IN DISTRICT COSTS – BACKUP INFORMATION EXAMPLES

Example of backup information needed for the invoiced services.

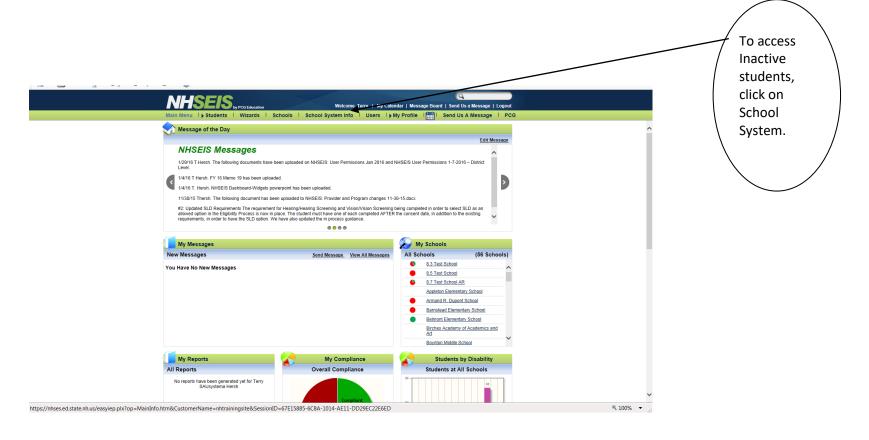
Occupational Therapy



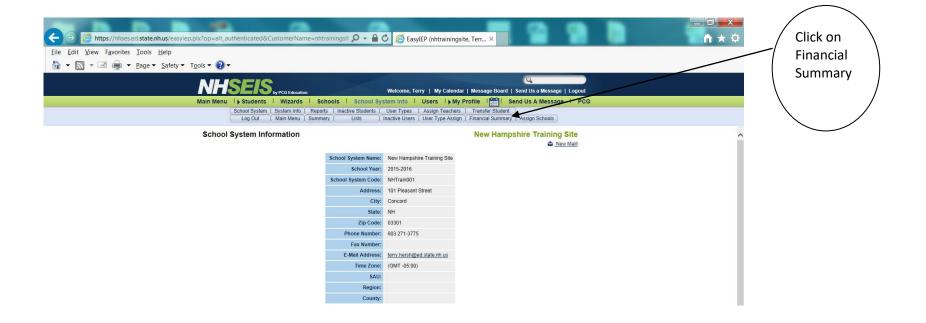
INACTIVE STUDENTS

You may have to access Inactive Students since they may have exited from special education for reasons such as graduated or aged out. Districts have the ability to apply for CAT AID for students who are inactive within the school year that they are seeking CAT AID.

The next page outlines how to access the financial summary for inactive student.



INACTIVE STUDENTS CONT.....



Calculating Special Education Aid

Below is an example of a calculation for a student who has met the cap for Special Education Aid. The school district is liable for the 3 ½ times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil (Special Education Aid cap) plus 20 percent of additional cost. The state is responsible for 80 percent.

If there are not enough state funds to cover the full 80 percent the costs will be prorated.

2014-2015	Estimated State Average Expenditure Per Pupil (ESAEPP):		\$14,448.74
Multiply:	3-1/2 times the ESAEPP:	X	3.5
	Equals - CATASTROPHIC AID CAP:		\$50,570.59

A STUDENT COSTING 3-1/2 TIMES PER PUPIL COST (ESAEPP)		STATE		DISTRICT
	RI	ESPONSIBILITY	F	RESPONSIBILITY
The total allowable special education cost for a student:		\$99,845.00		
Minus: The SPED AID CAP:	~	\$50,570.59		
COST ABOVE CAP:		\$49,274.41		
The state is responsible for paying 80% of the cost above SPED Aid Cap		\$49,274.41		
(up to \$144,487.40)	X	80%		
THE TOTAL COST FOR THE STATE:		\$39,419.53		
The District is responsible for paying 20% of state's cost above	SDEF) AID Can		\$49,274.41
The district is responsible for paying 20 % of state's cost above	OI LL	AID Cap	X	20%
			^	\$9,854.88
Taking the total	SPEI	D Aid Cap:		\$50,570.59
Add: 20% of the state's cost above the Cap:			+	\$9,854.88
THE TOTAL COST FOR THE DISTRICT:				\$60,425.47

Calculating Special Education Aid

Below is an example of a calculation for a student who exceeds 10 times the ESAEPP. The school district is liable for the 3 ½ times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil (Special Education cap) plus 20 percent of additional cost. The state is responsible for 80 percent up to the 10 times the ESAEPP. The Department of Education shall be liable for all costs in excess of 10 times the EASEPP. If there are not enough state funds to cover the state portion the costs will be prorated.

A STUDENT COSTING 10 TIMES PER PUPIL COST (ESAEPP)		STATE	ī	DISTRICT
	R	ESPONSIBILITY	RESPONSIBILITY	
The total allowable Special Education cost for a student is:		\$199,845.00		
The State pays 100% after 10 times the ESAEPP has been reached (\$14,448.74 X 10):	~	\$144,487.40		
State Responsibility		\$55,357.60		
10 times the ESAEPP:		\$144,487.40		
Minus: the SPED AID Cap	~	\$50,570.59		
		\$93,916.81		
	Χ	80%	R	
State Responsibility - 80%		\$75,133.45	1	
		. ,	⊢ \	
		\$75,133.45	—	
	+	\$55,357.60		
THE TOTAL COST FOR THE STATE:		\$130,491.05		
		, ,		
			_	\$93,916.81
			Х	
District Responsibility - 20%				\$18,783.36
District Nesponsibility - 20 //			+	Ψ10,700.00
			-	
The District is responsible for paying 20% of state's cost above SPED AID Cap			-	\$18,783.36
, , , ,			+-	\$50,570.59
THE TOTAL COST FOR THE DISTRICT: the SPED AID Cap:			+	\$69,353.95
THE TOTAL COST FOR THE DISTRICT:			_	\$09,555.95

TIMELINES FOR CAT AID

The NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, must provide the Division of Revenue Administration the estimated amount of SPED AID reimbursement to be received by each school district. This information must be provided by the end of August to ensure that tax rates are set in a timely fashion. The school district's cooperation in meeting the following deadlines is critical.

Deadlines:

Districts should be entering <u>SPED AID</u> data into NHSEIS on a monthly basis. The NHDOE is available to assist districts and provide technical assistance throughout the year in the <u>SPED AID</u> process.

July 31st Deadline for districts to have entered <u>SPED AID</u> data into NHSEIS. Submit transportation, exceptional costs and all invoices to the NHDOE, along with a screen print of the NHSEIS financial summary page and all in-district rate sheets showing special education and related service costs.

Please provide documentation how costs were calculated. Also, submit employee data sheets. Back-up documentation must be student specific. Please do not send bulk documentation for all students.

*Districts will create a list of all students for which they are applying for <u>SPED AID</u>, submit the Superintendent's Verification of <u>SPED AID</u> Form, verifying attendance and financial records and submit to the NHDOE (See form in Appendix).

Beginning **August 1**st NHDOE processes the invoices from August 1st to mid-December. Please work with your vendors to ensure that they are able to meet these timelines.

^{*} If a District had a student eligible for <u>SPED AID</u> who moved to or from the district during the school year, please contact Tamela Dalrymple at the NHDOE, 271-6056.

APPENDICES

Definitions

SPED AID means financial assistance for special education costs distributed under RSA 186-C: 18, III to a responsible school district.

<u>Contributed Funds</u> means funds contributed to defray the cost of a special education and by any party or agency other than the LEA.

<u>Direct Costs</u> means those costs which can be identified specifically with the provision of special education and related services, as included in a child's IEP, as per the NH RULES.

<u>Indirect Costs</u> means those costs which have been incurred for common or joint objectives and which cannot be identified with the provision of special education and related services as included in a particular child's IEP.

<u>Responsible School District</u> means a school district which is responsible for a child with a disability for whom the costs of special education exceed the formula established by RSA 186 C: 18, III.

(New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities, Effective March 24, 2017)

New Hampshire Education Laws Annotated 2016 – 2017 Edition – Please use the link below to access 186-C:18 State Aid

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xv/186-c/186-c-mrg.htm

To access the NH Standards for the Education for Children with Disabilities go to our website in the following link https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/index.htm

then click on the first link on the left Chapter Ed 1100 Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities

Amendment to the term "Catastrophic Aid" pursuant to HB 517 https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special-ed/memos/documents/fy18 memo 7 amendment cat aid.pdf

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SUPERINTENDENT'S VERIFICATION OF SPED AID

District
SAU #
Number of Students with Special Education Aid Cost Records:
Total Special Education Costs Reported for District:
I certify that, during Fiscal Year 2018, the total expenses entered above were incurred by th school district for services provided to the Special Education students who were eligible for Special Education Aid. The cost to the district for fulfilling each student's Individual Educati Program (IEP) during Fiscal Year 2018 has exceeded 3-1/2 times state average tuition.
I certify that the district is only requesting reimbursement for costs paid by local funds. No reimbursement is being requested for personnel or services paid by IDEA federal funds.
Detailed accounting will be maintained by the school district and will include the invoices, a well as checks and payment vouchers on which the payments were made.
Superintendent of Schools signature Date